Yuko Nii Foundation

THE GRAND PARADISE LOST COSTUME BALL CELEBRATING JOHN MILTON'S 400TH BIRTHDAY

September 2008

OVERVIEW

WILLIAMSBURG ART & HISTORICAL CENTER

September 27th 2008

8-11 PM

"good food, drinks, entertainment and fine company"

THE GRAND PARADISE LOST COSTUME BALL
Celebrating John Milton's 400th Birthday

Couched amid historical artifacts and contemporary art celebrating PARADISE LOST, the greatest poem in the English language. Perhaps the largest birthday party for Milton in the world, with poets, artists and composers. We will be documenting this extravaganza on video to produce a documentary for this historical event that we believe will be seen for centuries to come. Milton's centennial birthday will not come again for another 100 years. Be part of it! If you attend the gala, ***you will probably be in this video!***

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Ten years after the largest birthday bash in history for John Milton's 400th birthday, we are finally doing the catalog. This was a history making production in a glorious national landmark building.

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The final catalogue will have all of the art works that were in the show. This on-line version is only 46 pages. The printed catalogue will have 150 gorgeous full color pages.

To order: Milton@wahcenter.net

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SHOW DIRECTOR:

"The impact of Milton, especially his Paradise Lost, has enduring influence in the lives of not only the academic world, but among those of us in the arts and the general public who can FEEL the powerful resonance of his words and ideas. The unabridged original is the magical touchstone, the undiminished constellation in the Western psyche that has illuminated our culture for the foreseeable future, as has Shakespeare and the Bible.

"There are many worldwide events from Oxford & Cambridge to the New York Public Library. However, we know of none quite like ours that asks professional artists, composers and poets to respond to the greatest poem of all time.

"America is a country of immigrants who hail from all corners of the globe. We come together through our common use of the English language. Every culture and ethnicity has contributed in their turn to the wealth of words and phrases in the English language. The English language no longer belongs to that island nation that once was greatest empire the world has ever seen, but to all of us. As the Greeks gave us philosophy, so the British have given us the gift of the ever-evolving English language. As part of our exhibit, in homage to the British peoples and their gift to us, we will include interesting artifacts of British heritage from the Yuko Nii Foundation collection."

Terrance Lindall
Show Director

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER & ARTISTC DIRECTOR OF THE WAH CENTER:

"The Williamsburg Art & Historical Center (WAH Center) was founded upon the 'Bridge Concept,' which envisions a multifaceted, multicultural art center whose mission is to coalesce the diverse artistic communities, and create a bridge between local, national and international artists, emerging as well as established artists of all disciplines.

"It takes three to for the art to be realized – a dynamic symbiotic trinity composed of the artists, the art promoter or space provider, and the art appreciator. The WAH Center is pleased to be the promoter and space provider, bridging the artists with the audience in this visually exciting and scholarly production, 'Paradise Lost.'

"While literary, academic and religious circles throughout the world are celebrating John Milton's 400th birthday this year, we at the WAH center are taking great thought and literature of the past along with historic artifacts from the time of John Milton and bridging them to the present day of artists, writers, poets, composers & performers. It is a unique and inspiring happening in this historical New York City landmark.

Yuko Nii
Founder & Artistic Director
Williamsburg Art & Historical Center

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Comments

“The exhibit and programs promise to be a diverse collection of multiple perspectives and strategies that should engage the audience you hope to reach." Wendy Woon, the Edward John Noble Foundation Deputy Director for Education of the Museum of Modern Art, New York

“The show has been lovingly put together by Yuko Nii, the founder, and Terrance Lindall, the executive director, of the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center, who have turned its headquarters, an 1860 bank building next to the Williamsburg Bridge, into a Miltonian jumble, an earthbound pandemonium.

“On the first floor there’s Japanese porcelain, some 17th- and 19th-century illustrated editions of “Paradise Lost,” a 17th-century Torah opened to Genesis, a portrait of Disraeli and a case containing a 19th-century British colonel’s uniform, complete with regimental pouch and ceremonial sword. “Paradise Lost,” for all its capaciousness, doesn’t exactly mention either Disraeli or the British Army, but these exhibits are in honor, Mr. Lindall said, of the people who gave us English, the language Milton wrote in.” Charles McGrath, New York Times, September 25, 2008

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THANKS TO:

Milton's Angels, Volunteers
Tiffany Yanetta
Eric Nelson
Jacqueline Safian
Maryanna McConnell
David Smith

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New York Art World Magazine

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New York City Council Member Diana Reyna,
The New York City Landmark Conservancy

Opening with the
THE GRAND PARADISE LOST COSTUME BALL
Saturday, September 27th
8pm to midnite

"As sinfully delicious as 'Man's first disobedience' and the most fabulous extravaganza since Adam & Eve had to cover their nakedness!"

Performance by
HUMAN KINETICS MOVEMENT ARTS with Yana Schnitzler and Group TBA
Recently performing at the Metropolitan Museum. The cutting edge of interactive dance. "…mesmering…" —Richard Termine, photographer, New York Times

Plus the JC Hopkins Biggish Swing Band, Olek fashion models performing throughout the three floors of exhibits. Also; Adam & Eve video art, birthday salutations, good food and drink, more.

Noted Brooklyn poet S. David recites his tribute to John Milton and takes you on a poet's tour of the art in the show

OCTOBER EVENTS

Peter Dizozza

The reopened WAH Theatre in the third floor Grand Ballroom of the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center presents:
Paradise Found!
Four Performances,
Friday and Saturday at 8PM
October 3rd and 4th,10th, 11th

Premiere stagings of scripts inspired by Paradise Lost by members of The Brooklyn Playwrights Collective:

Sugar-Coated Sin by Alaina Hammond
Lost in Paradise Lost by Maria Micheles
Paradise Found by Peter Dizozza

With Kaitlin Bailey, Alaina Hammond, Mike Allen Hill, John Andrew Morrison and Ken Richards

Call for Student and Professor discounts!

Yana Schnitzler's Paradise Lost Ballet at the Opening

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ARTISTS IN SHOW

Antanas Adomaitas
Stephen Auslender
Carrie Ann Baade
Donna Balma
Bienvenido Bones Banez, jr.
Robert S. Beal
Alan F. Beck
Jeff Berman
Orin Buck
Rich Buckler
Ivan Calderone
Joe Catuccio
Carolyn Chaperon
Gail Baxter Cohen
Suzanne Dahlquist
George deMoura
Matthew E. Derezinski
Gary Duehr
Jaesun Duggan
Val Dyshlov
Eric Edelman
Camilla Fallon
Ailene Fields
Jesse Forgione
Troy C. Frantz
Aimee Hertog
Tom Hooper
Sarah Horvat
Amanda Husberg
Mildred Kaye
Ray Kinlock
Arthur Kirmss
Frank Krasicki
Kris Kuksi
Randy J. Lagana
Estelle Levy
Terrance Lindall
Drew Maillard
Greg Maillard
Ben Marxen
Bertram Matysik
Gerd Matysik
Gertrud Matysik
Adam Miller
Rodica Miller
Clive Milton
Rodica Miller
Clive Milton
Ella Morton
Walter Lynn Mosley
Eric Reuben Nelson
Yuko Nii
Leah Oates
Olek
David Orr
Linda Paleias
Lennie Peterson
Carol Quint
Max Razdow
Luis Rojas
Michael Knud Ross
Tim Slowinski
Gary Spradling (in memorium)
Phyllis Stapler
Sandra Taggart
Mayumi Takagi
Matthew Turov
Marcela Varona
Benjamin A. Vierling
Sharyne E. Walker
Jon Neal Wallace
Bryan Kent Ward
Haejin Yoon

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Wordl Renowned Rich Buckker inveirl his portrait of Milton

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Terrance Lindall introduces a great descendant of John Milton: Clive Milton

13

Lovely Jazz Singer at the Reception

14

The evening had a big band to delight the crowd
in front of a fantastic mural by Joe Catuccio

15

The famous Polis yarn bomber Olek's friends
look at Rich Bucker's portrait of Salvador Dali

16

The Birthday Cake

17

Arthur Kirmss with his Milton bust that
Lights up with candles

Some guests

Yuko Nii with Rich Buckler greets the audience

Surrealist composer and play writer Peter Dizozza
Addresses the audience

The big band played into the night

A German OOMPAH band invades the show unannounced

Thumbs up to the evening

Elegant apple pickers!

Testament of the Poet
An intimate concert of 17th century music by the ensemble Courante

Directed by Arthur Kirmss

Courante musicians Arthur Kirmss, Lisa Kelly and Heather Arzberger in 17th century costume, on harp, guitar, and recorders, performing European vocal and instrumental music through early Baroque, celebrating Milton's life.

We had an angel to greet guests!

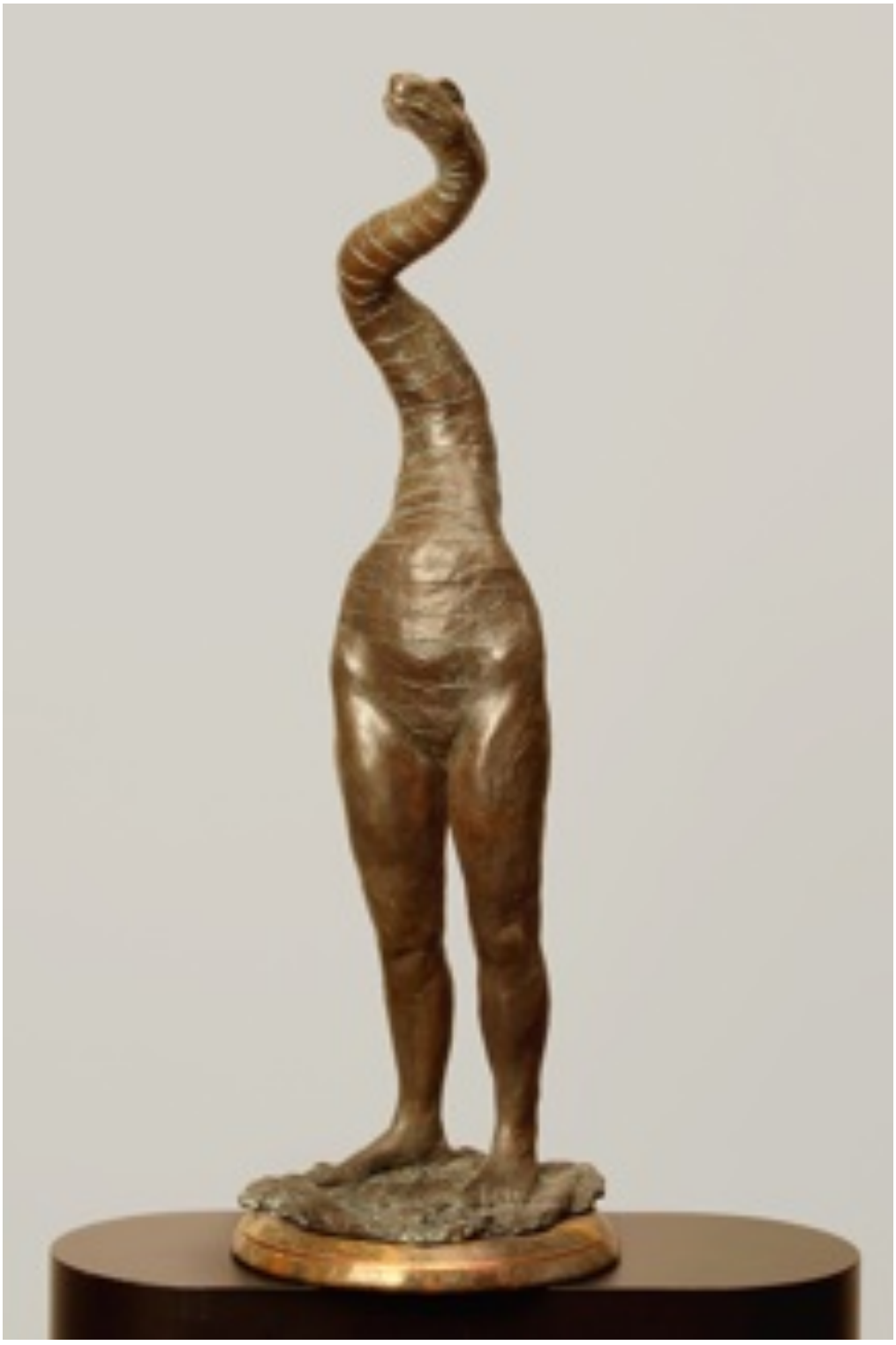
HANDS
ROSE·WHO
=WAIT=
RISE UP TO
THE MOUNTAIN
THE
ROCK

A flower in the garden!

Milton and guests

Olek's costumed pranksters

Adomaitas



Ailene Fields

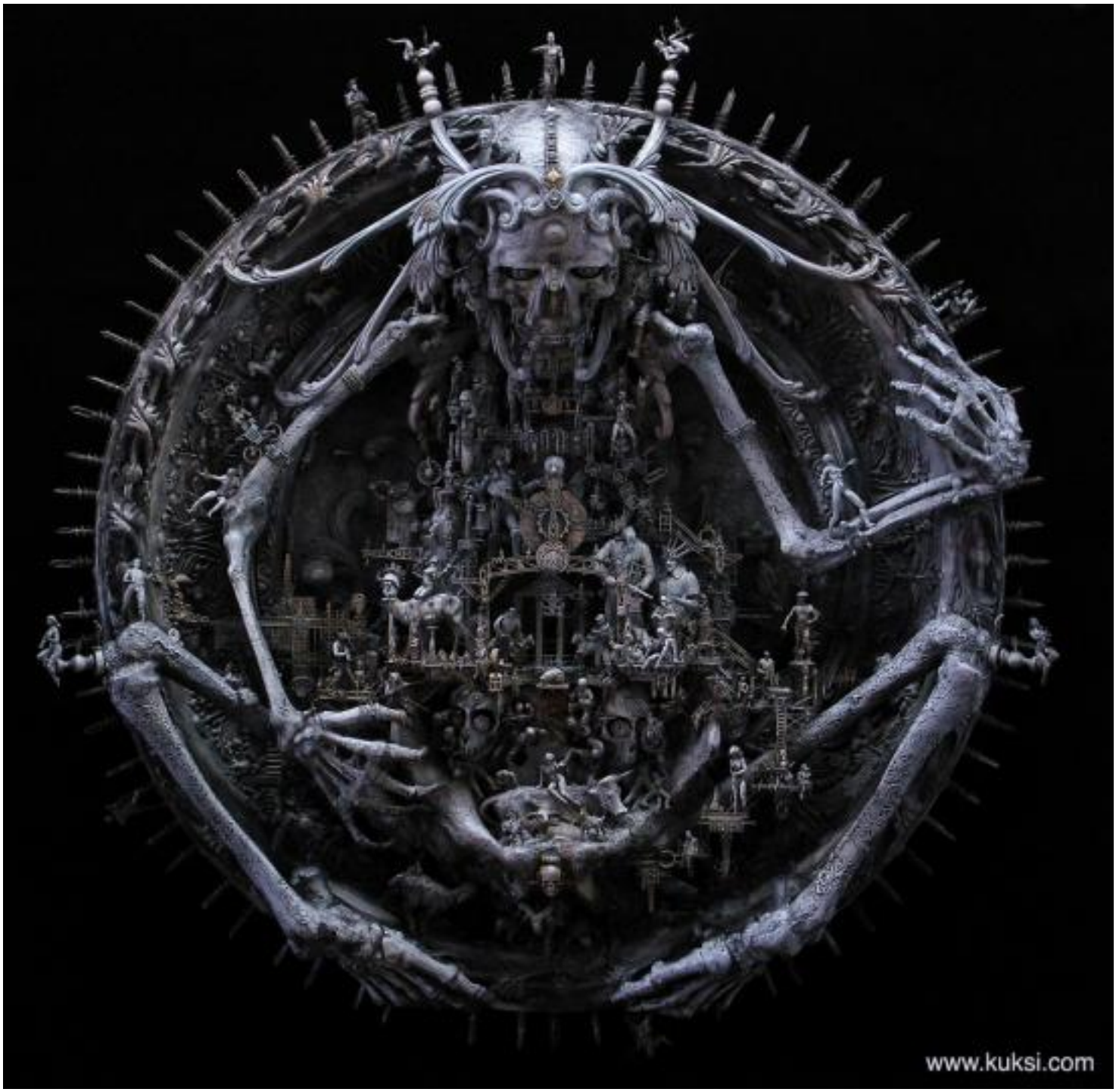
Jaesun Duggan

Val Dyshlov

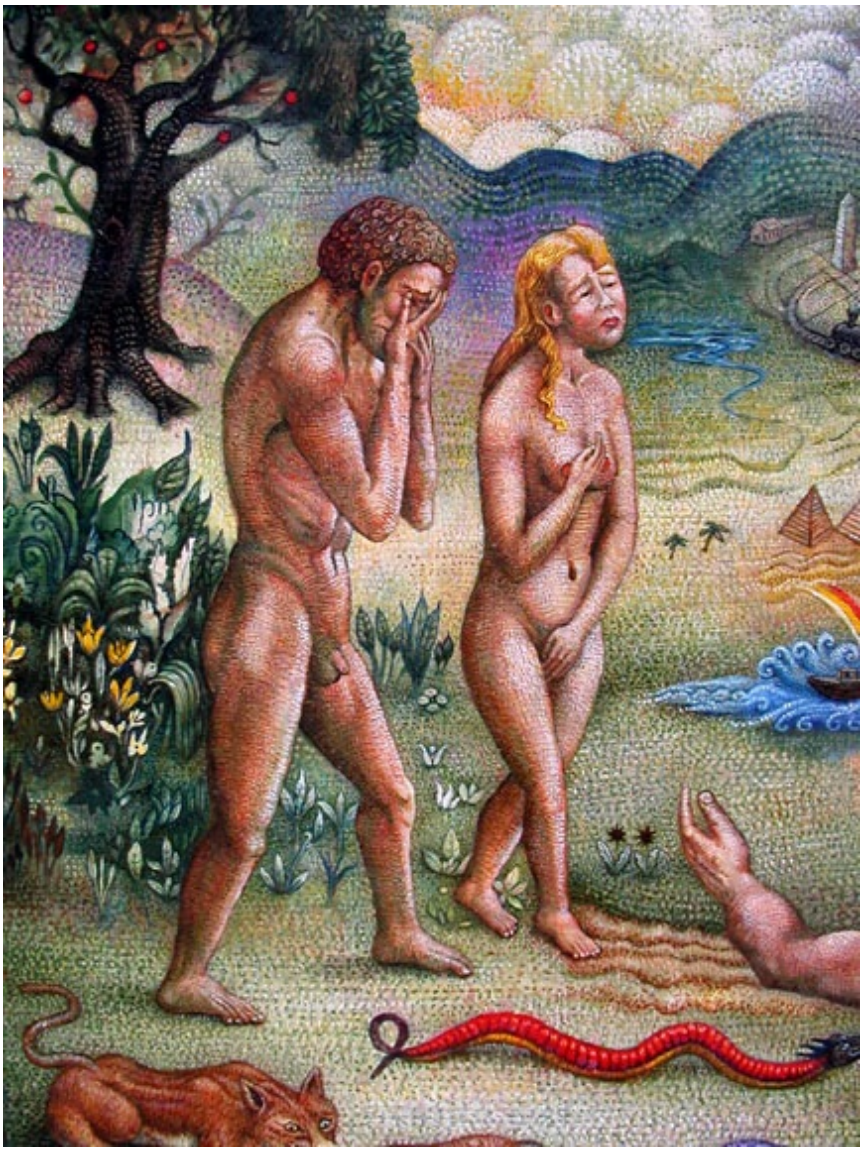
Jesse Forgione

Troy Frantz

Mildred Kaye

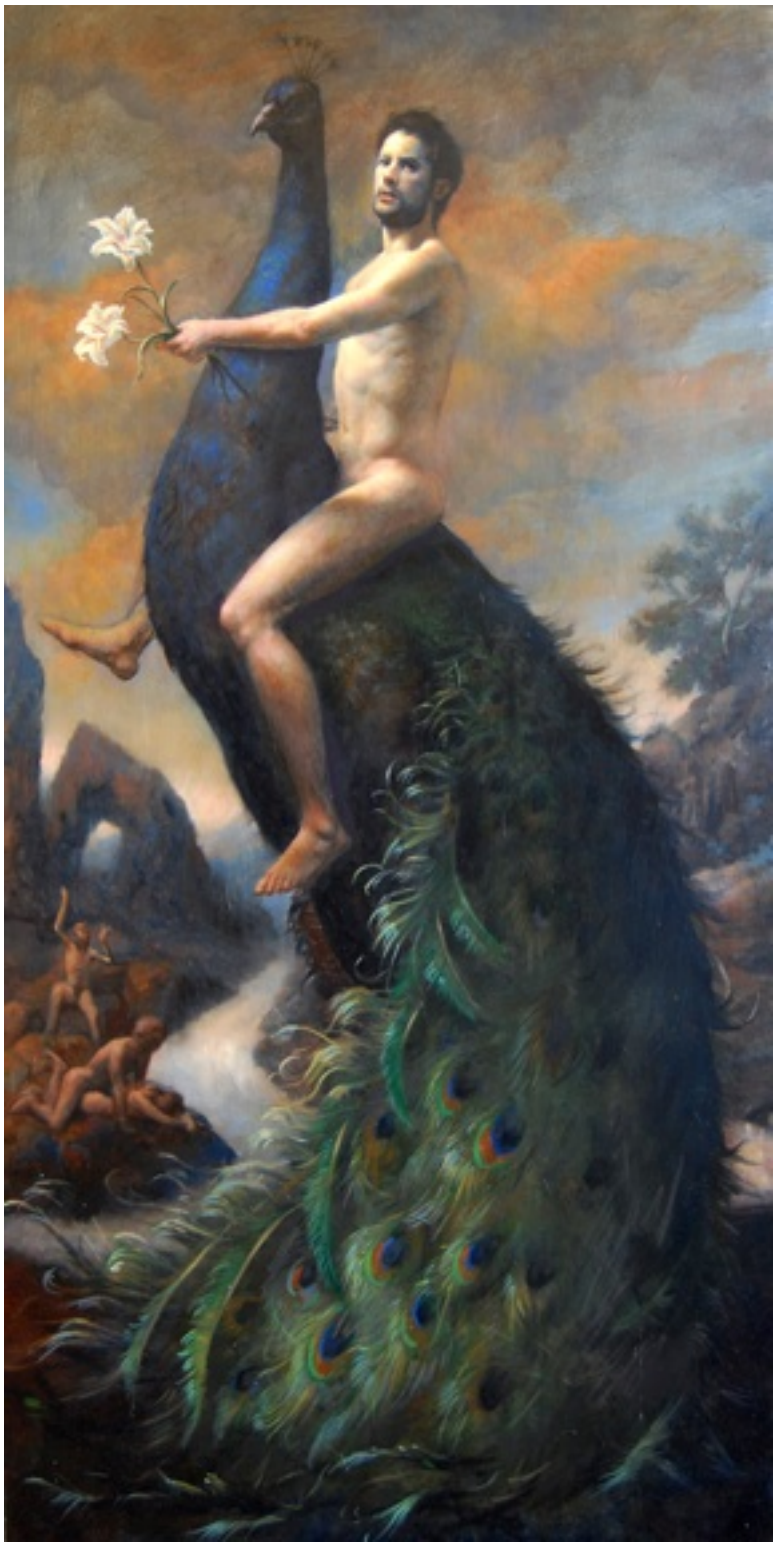


Kris Kuksi



Terrance Lindall

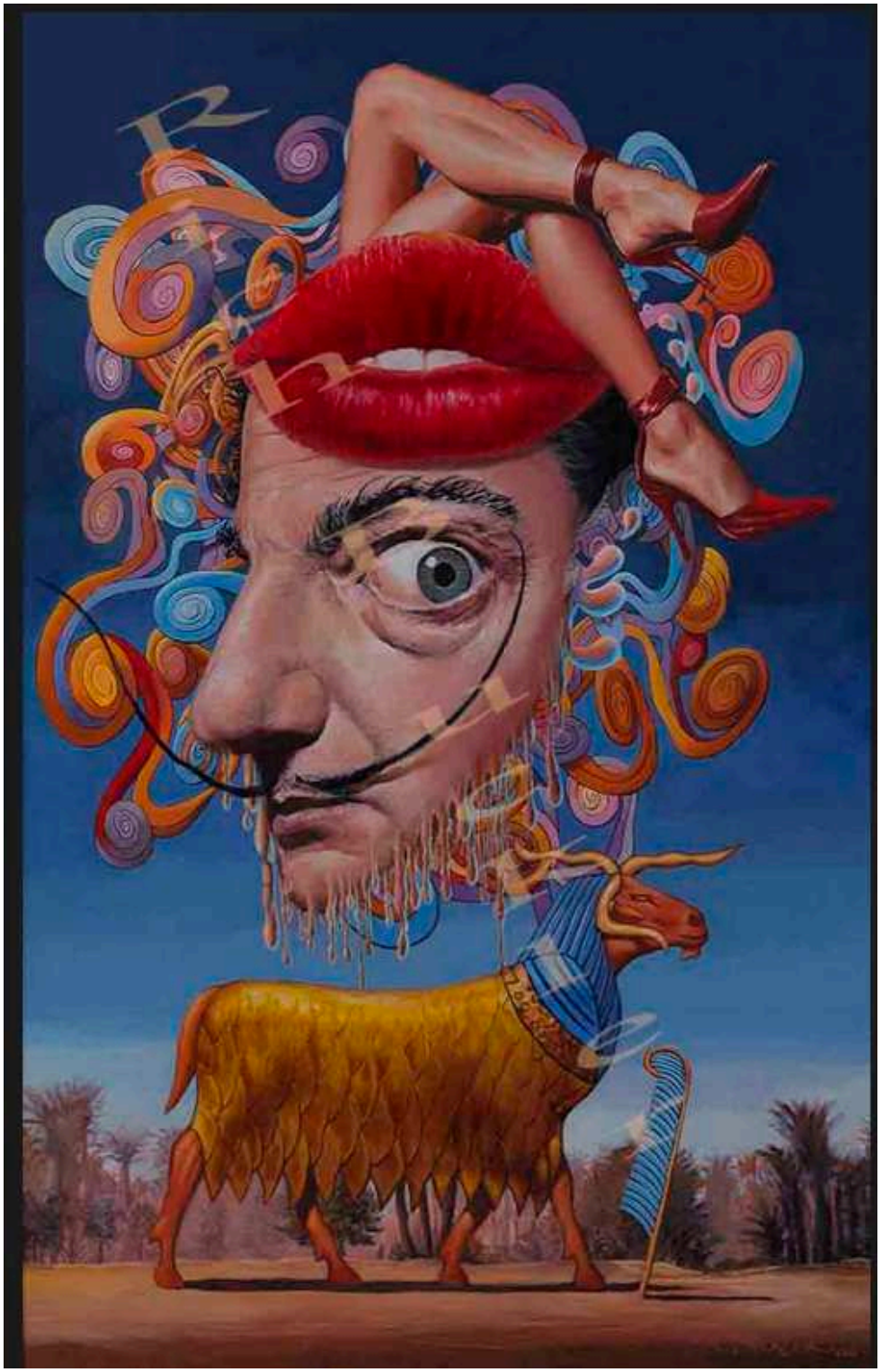
Drew Maillard



Adam Miller

Walter Lynn Mosley

Robert Vierling



Rich Bucker’s “Dali in Paradise”
Richwas an American comics artist and penciller, best known for his work on Marvel Comics' Fantastic Four in the mid-1970s and for creating the character Deathlok in Astonishing Tales #25. Buckler drew virtually every major character at Marvel and DC, often as a cover artist.

Bienvenido Bones Banez

HISTORCAL EXHIBITS

17th century handwritten Torah on vellumTHE BOOK OF GENESIS from a 17th century handwritten Torah on vellum (23 feet long).
SPECIAL BOOK & MANUSCRIPT DISPLAYS:

CHARLES LAMB'S copy of first illustrated 1691 edition of Paradise Lost.

LADY POMFRET'S copy of the first illustrated edition (c. 1688) of Paradise Lost. She was a noble 18th century British woman of great learning, and the Lady of the Bedchamber of Queen Caroline.

THE BOOK OF GENESIS, a 17th century handwritten Torah on vellum (23 feet long)